

Secret Garden, Centre for Balearic Innovative Technologies
Inca, Mallorca, Spain

Alberto Campo Baeza

Architect: Alberto Campo Baeza
Collaborators: Architects: L. Ignacio Aguirre López, Antón García Abril, Antonio Pérez Villegas
Technical architect: Julio Pérez Amigo
Emilio Delgado Martos, Daniel Huertas Nadal, Juan Manuel Sánchez La Chica, Raúl del Valle González
Structure: Andrés Rubio Morán (architect)
Photographers: Hisao Suzuki, Pedro Albornoz, Raúl del Valle Gonzáles
Area: Ground floor: 1700m²
Basement: 3200m²
Materials: Exterior: limestone (the same stone used by Utzon for his own house in Mallorca)
Interior: walls and floor in Roman travertine, frameless glass, insitu concrete, white painted steel columns
Competition won: April 1995
Construction: March 1997–March 1998

Architect's statement

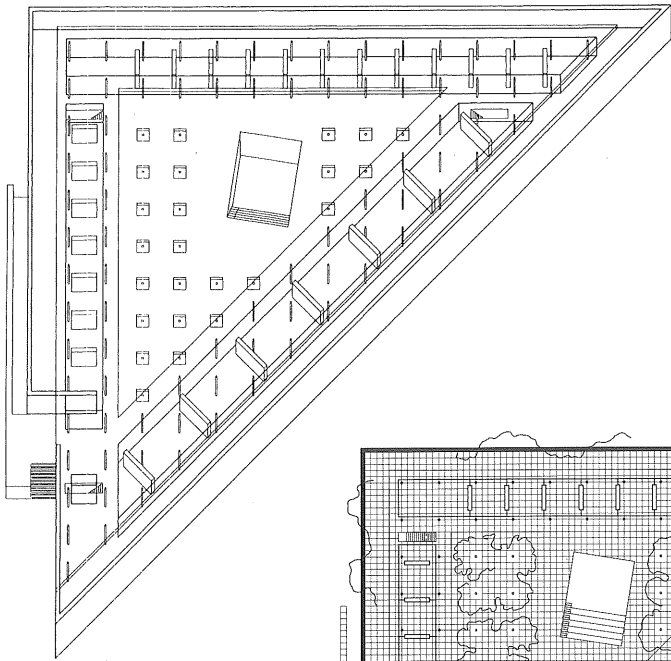
The programme is high-tech office space. The triangular site is in an industrial park. A high stone wall defines the boundaries and forms an enclosed area. The site is excavated to basement level and the horizontal ground plane re-established with a floor slab in travertine marble, the same finish as the interior of the perimeter walls. This forms a travertine box open to the sky. A six metre-square grid orthogonal to two sides of the triangle is drawn across the site. Running parallel to the sides of the triangle are lines of cylindrical white metal columns, on which rests a flat roof that cantilevers two metres on either side. This continuous space is enclosed by frameless glazing. The remaining grid points on the site are marked by orange trees, forming a patio. Fragrant plants are trained up the walls: jasmine, wisteria and grapevines. Work places are inserted into this 'secret garden'. Skewed off the grid, tiers of seating excavated into the stone ground plane introduce a tension into the compositional stability. All service conduits flow through the basement, piercing the ground plane to work spaces where required.

This is an architecture with a stereotomic stone base: an inverted podium supporting the lighter tectonic elements. The whole is tuned with the utmost precision, using the maximum economy of means. More with less.

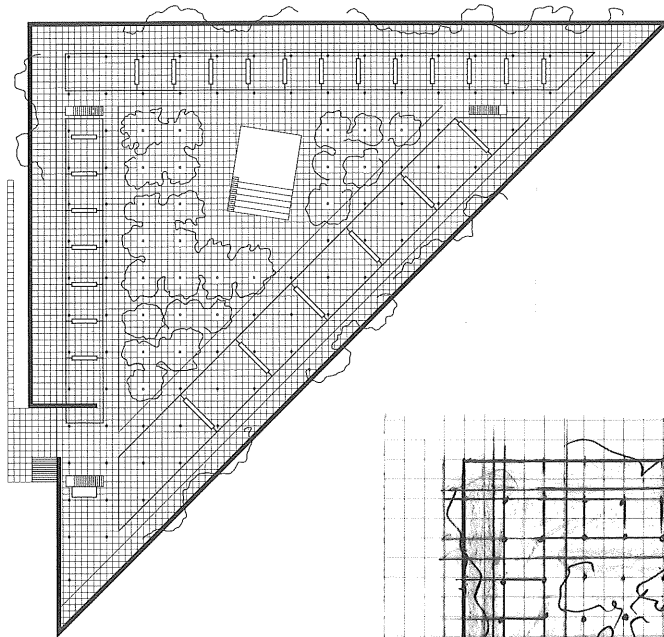
Alberto Campo Baeza



Competition design axonometric



Competition design plan



Preliminary design sketch

